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Glen Canyon News Release

GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE HIDDEN SLOUGH PILOT PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Page, AZ – Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Superintendent Stan Austin today announced the availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Hidden Slough Pilot Project Environmental Assessment (EA). The FONSI, which was signed by National Park Service Regional Director Mike Snyder on November 7, 2008, identifies the selected alternative and is the decision making document for the project.

Two alternatives were evaluated in the EA: Alternative A (the no action alternative) and Alternative B (the preferred alternative). The preferred alternative will implement the design plans for replacement of tamarisk with native vegetation at the Hidden Slough site (mile –6.5R). Tree and shrub willows and Fremont cottonwood will be the focus of revegetation planting at this site, since these species are known for their ability to support high biodiversity, including residential and migratory birds, and terrestrial animals.

The preferred alternative is the selected alternative because it best meets the purpose and need for the project as well as the project objectives to: 1) remove non- native, invasive tamarisk and revegetate the site with a variety of native species, 2) enhance essential riparian habitat for avifauna and wildlife, 3) provide a stock of native seed for down- stream dispersal, 4) enhance recreational opportunities, and 5) refine the understanding of methods, effectiveness, and costs associated with revegetation activities at a remote site.

The EA was made available for public review and comment during a 30- day period ending October 4, 2008. All comments expressed general support for the project. The FONSI and EA are available online at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glca. Paper or CD copies may be obtained by writing to Superintendent, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 1507, Page, AZ 86040.

- www.nps.gov/glca -